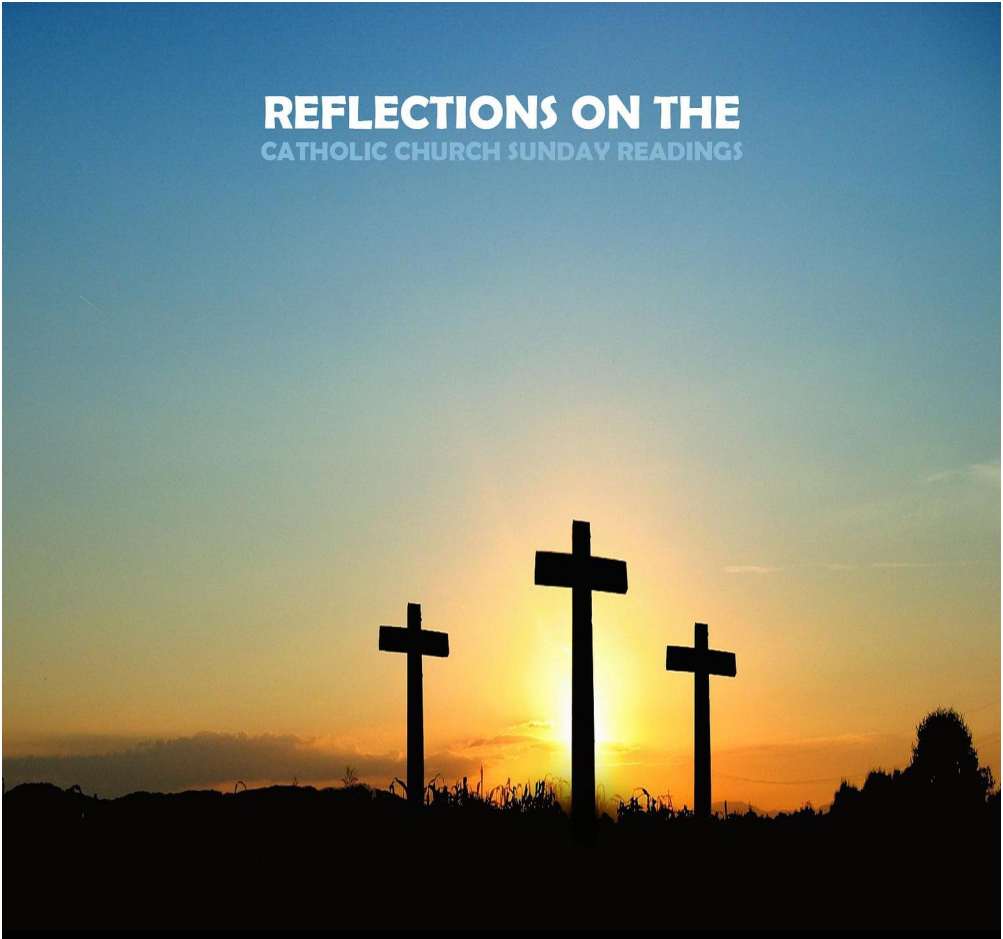
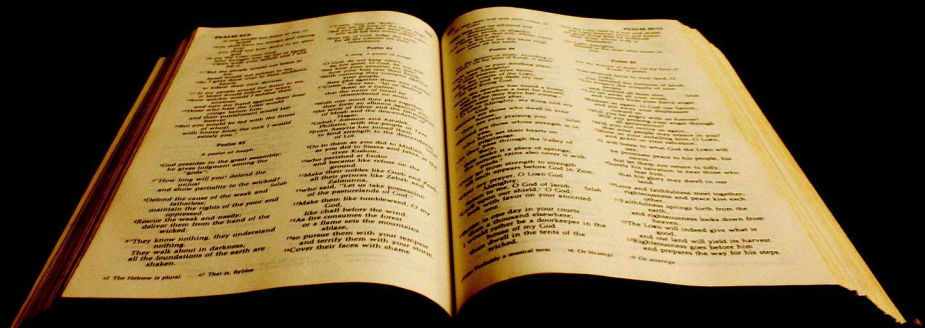
REFLECTIONS ON THE

CATHOLIC CHURCH SUNDAY READINGS





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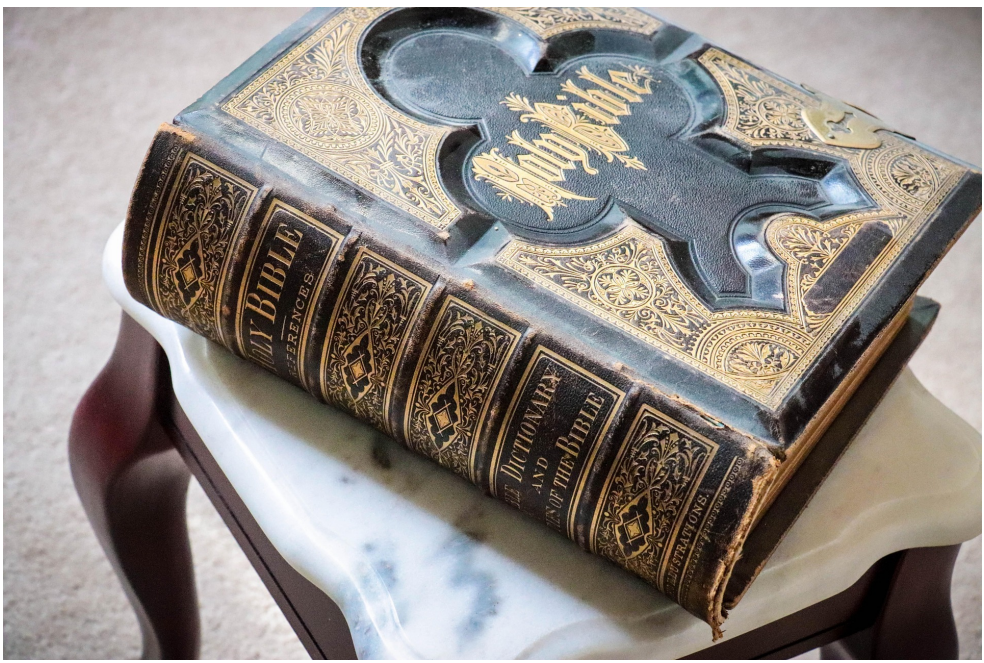
The Light Of The World

The gospel which was taken from the book of mat 5'13-16 ,*powerfully reminds us that ,as the followers of christ, we are called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Jesus urges his discpiles not to lose their flavor nor hide their light under the bed but to shine through good works,glorifying the father in heaven.*This teaching presents us with a challenge to live authentic life , preserving goodness in society like salt preserves food ,shining before all men .



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Connection with the news of the country and what christ's expects from us

This message resonates deeply with the current situations in Nigeria this week.Amid the ongoing security challenges,the fight against terrorism ,banditry and all other vices that are currently taken place in the country .Reports of U.S troops arriving for training *non combatants ,this highlights international efforts to support and annihilate all this vices.Tensions over domestic

issues like electoral reforms ,religious persecution claims and transparency debates in the government reveals societal darkness, divison and mistrust.

The gospel calls us ,both christains and non Christians to be a light to the nation , where morality and integrity are upheld .especially christians who are largely facing this persecutions, are encourage to keep their lights still shining amidst the chaos and conflicts happening , we are challenged to be the salt of the world .And when a salt loses its tastes it can no longer be seen as salt.

3

Temptation Of Jesus Christ

The gospel reading taken from the book of (mattew 4:1-11). *Jesus was led by the spirit into the desert,where he fasted for forty days and forty nights.He was tempted by the devil three times,first was to turn a stone to bread,second was to throw himself down from the pinnacle of the temple,and the third was to worship him with the promise of giving him all the kingdoms of this world.*In all this temptations Jesus stood to his faith even though those things are extremely what he needed at the time.

As the church,been in the period of lent ,invites us to spiritual battle,reliance on Gods word over the material things of this world.we are encouraged to seek first the things that are everlasting over things of this world that lasts only for temporal period.

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Connection with the news of the country and what christ's expects from us

The Gospel resonates so well with the current issues and the Uprisings especially the security axpects that have been ravaging the land for decades not, every month, weeks ,and days we receive reports in various parts about insecurity .Killings have become the norms of the day and the sole cause of all this things gears to personal satisfactions of the politicians , they are after their own personal justifications , they priorities material things over the things of God. This gospel challenges us to set aside those things and pursue the things that are eternal ,Jesus set an example for us that we should value our salvation over this worldly comforts

4

A Leader Will Emerge

The first reading from Isaiah 11 : 1 - 10 , *gives a brief but powerful vision of peace, "A righteous leader will emerge, and the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kids.They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountains."*

image caption

Connection with the news of the country and what christ's expects from us

This prophetic word brings a beautiful hope against the terrible happenings in Nigeria ,where killing and kidnapping have been the norm of the day , just in Kwara it was reported that over 170 died on February ,sequel to the katsina and Benue killings .Banditry and Islamic jihadists have taken over the place.

Isaiah`s words reminds us that true peace comes not only from guns or soldiers, but from fairness, justice, equity and God`s way. It calls on everyone in Nigeria ,people and leaders to choose a better path by stopping all forms of immoral acts and work together so no one hurts others anymore.

5

Do Not Be Afraid

Gospel from Luke 5:1-11 , *recounts Jesus teaching from Simon Peter's boat by the Lake of Gennesaret. After a fruitless night of fishing, Jesus instructs Peter to cast the nets again. Despite doubt, Peter obeys: "Master, we have worked all night and caught nothing, but at your word I will lower the nets." The miraculous haul nearly sinks the boats. Overwhelmed, Peter falls at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." Jesus responds, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." Peter, James, and John leave everything to follow Him.*

This passage highlights vocation, trust in Christ's word amid failure, humility before God's holiness (echoed in Isaiah's vision of the Lord and the seraphim's "Holy, holy, holy"), and the call to mission despite unworthiness.

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Connection with the news of the country and what christ's expects from us

In Nigeria that week, headlines reflected persistent economic hardship, political maneuvering ahead of future elections (with figures like Aregbesola and Kwankwaso strategizing), ongoing banditry negotiations raising security debates, and efforts to boost technical education for job creation amid youth unemployment. Many Nigerians felt like Peter—exhausted from "fruitless nights" of labor, insecurity, and inflation, questioning where hope lies.

6

Remember me in your Paradise

On Sunday, November 23, 2025, the Catholic Church celebrated the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ.The Gospel from Luke 23:35-43 *depicts Jesus crucified between two criminals. Mocked as "King of the Jews" by leaders, soldiers, and one thief, the other criminal rebukes the mocker and pleads, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus responds with mercy: "Today you will be with me in Paradise." This scene reveals Christ's kingship—not through earthly power or force, but through humble service, forgiveness, and redemptive love amid suffering and rejection (complemented by Colossians 1:12-20 proclaiming Christ's supremacy over all creation).*

Connection with the news of the country and what christ's expects from us

In Nigeria that week (November 17-23, 2025), the nation faced renewed anguish from escalating insecurity: mass school abductions in Kebbi and Niger States, violent attacks on churches (including in Kwara), banditry surges, and kidnappings that terrorized communities, displacing families and reopening wounds of vulnerability. Political voices, including criticism of government priorities amid crises, and international signals (like U.S. concerns over Christian persecution) highlighted division, fear, and calls for protection.

Christ expects from us radical allegiance to His kingdom: to reject mockery and vengeance, emulate the "good thief" in humble repentance, and extend mercy to the suffering. In Nigeria's climate of violence, fear, and marginalization—especially toward the faithful and innocent—we are called to be agents of Christ's reign through forgiveness, advocacy for justice, solidarity with victims, prayerful resistance to evil, and building peace via charity and truth. Amid mockery of the vulnerable, proclaim His kingdom by remembering the forgotten, offering hope, and trusting that true victory lies in love that conquers even the cross.

7

Conclusion

the gospel urges each and everyone of us to listen to the voice of God calling us to make amend our lives on earth , to focus on making the world a better place for all human beings .In one of the reflections Christ admonishes us to seek first the things that last forever rather than the things of the world,which are ephemerals . We are all called to serve In our different functions , we are to fight self gratifications and self pleasures to pursue the kingdom of Christ , and as we are doing so God whom see's our hearts will reward us according to his riches.

About the Author

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A student of st Paul`s seminary , currently undergoing his philosophical degree